

## **REMARKS**

Careful consideration has been given by the applicants to the Examiner's comments and rejection of the claims, as set forth in the outstanding Office Action, and favorable reconsideration and allowance of the application, as amended, is earnestly solicited.

Applicants note the Examiner's objection to Page 2 of the disclosure and in compliance the requirements set forth, applicants have deleted the paragraph beginning on line 5 of page 2 of the specification. This will eliminate reference to Claim 1 and render the objection to be moot.

Furthermore, applicants note the rejection of Claims 1-9 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Forster, U.S. Patent No. 4,449,444 in view of Ohashi, et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,425,244, as extensively detailed in the Office Action.

However, upon careful consideration of the art, and in order to place the application into substantial order for allowance, applicants have implemented amendments setting forth further apprehensive limitations to Claim 1, so as to distinguish over the art, irrespective as to whether the latter is considered singly or in combination.

In particular, applicants have amended Claim 1 to incorporate the further structural functional aspects in that the common feeding pressure duct 80 is provided with the same pressure supply line 16 for connection to a setting pressure regulating valve 5 that actuates an adjusting device 3.

The foregoing further structural and functional aspects are clearly described in the specification having reference to the disclosure on Page 8, lines 9-12, wherein this aspect is clearly described and also illustrated in the drawings. The foregoing structural and functional aspects of the invention are not in any manner disclosed nor suggested in the art cited by the Examiner, nor in any other art known to the applicants.

Neither of the publications indicates that there is any provision of a common feeding pressure duct with a supply line for setting a defined pressure.

In particular, Forster, et al. discloses an axial piston pump with a connection block, which is provided with a plurality of ducts for producing two output streams. However, there is no provision of any common feeding duct to produce the output streams, nor is there provided any kind of structure for setting a defined pressure within the ducts of the connection block.

Similarly, Ohashi, et al. discloses a pump unit that includes at least one hydraulic pump with inlet and outlet ports. The connection block thereof is equipped with a plurality of ducts for working pressure lines and with a port, which is connected to a common charging passage for all of the working pressure lines.

To the contrary, the inventive connection block uniquely and patentably distinguishes over the subject matter, as described in Ohashi, et al., inasmuch as the common charging passage of the pump unit is not described or equipped with any means for communication with a control valve, which tunes or controls a certain pressure of the working pressure lines.

The claims, as amended, and particularly, newly restricted Claim 1, clearly provides inventive aspects in view of the art, in traverse of which applicants submit as follows, noting that Ohashi, et al. appears to be the closest state of the art in disclosing a pump unit including at least one hydraulic pump with inlet and outlet ports.

A disadvantage encountered with the Ohashi, et al., pump unit, respectively, with its connection block, may be traced back to missing aspects for monitoring the hydraulic fluid supply via its common charging passage. Therefore, Ohashi, et al. is deficient in providing control means, because the connection block does not include appropriate ducts. As a

consequence of this disadvantage, it is necessary to provide a connection block possessing additional ducts for an easy installation of control or regulation means.

The above-referenced requirement is fully met by the present invention, as set forth in amended Claim 1, which now incorporates a connection block for a hydrostatic piston machine, which is provided for simultaneous operation in a first hydraulic circuit and a second hydraulic circuit. A first working pressure duct and a second working pressure duct are formed in the inventive connection block, via which ducts, respectively, a first and second working line of the first hydraulic circuit, are connectable to, respectively, a first and second kidney-shaped control port of a control plate of the hydrostatic piston machine. A third working pressure duct and a fourth working pressure duct are formed in the connection block, via which ducts, respectively, a third and a fourth working line of the second hydraulic circuit, are connectable to, respectively, a third and a fourth kidney-shaped control port of the control plate of the hydrostatic piston machines. Moreover, there is also provided a common feeding pressure duct in the inventive connection block, which is connectable to the first to fourth working pressure duct via a separate feeding device. According to the inventive aspects of this connection block, the common feeding pressure duct is equipped with a setting pressure supply line, which is adapted to be connected to a setting pressure regulating valve that actuates an adjusting device within the hydrostatic piston machine. The inventive connection block meets the above-mentioned requirement because due to its setting pressure supply line communicating with a common feeding pressure duct, it is easy to install control and/or regulation means.

Additionally, the inventive connection block is advantageous over the connection block of Ohashi, et al., inasmuch as the inventive connection block is a compact unit which is built into a hydraulic installation together with the piston machine, without the need for an additional supply of the feeding pressure and of its control means.

Concerning the other reference of record, in essence, Forster, et al., this is even more remote from the present invention and does not disclose any of the features as referred to hereinabove.

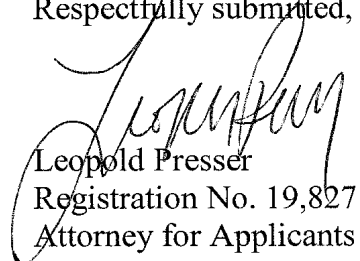
Accordingly, in summation, applicants respectfully submit that the present invention clearly and patentably distinguishes over the art, concerning which the novel aspects of the inventive concept are clearly described in the present specification on Page 2, line 8 through Page 3, line 27.

The foregoing aspects and features are clearly and unambiguously set forth in amended Claim 1, and also in the dependent claims, and are not in any manner disclosed nor suggested in the art of record, nor any other art presently known to the applicants.

In view of the foregoing comments and amendments, applicants respectfully request the early and favorable reconsideration of the application and issuance of the Notice of Allowance by the Examiner.

However, in the event that the Examiner has any queries concerning the instantly submitted Amendment, applicants' attorney respectfully requests that he be accorded the courtesy of possibly a telephone conference to discuss any matters in need of attention.

Respectfully submitted,



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